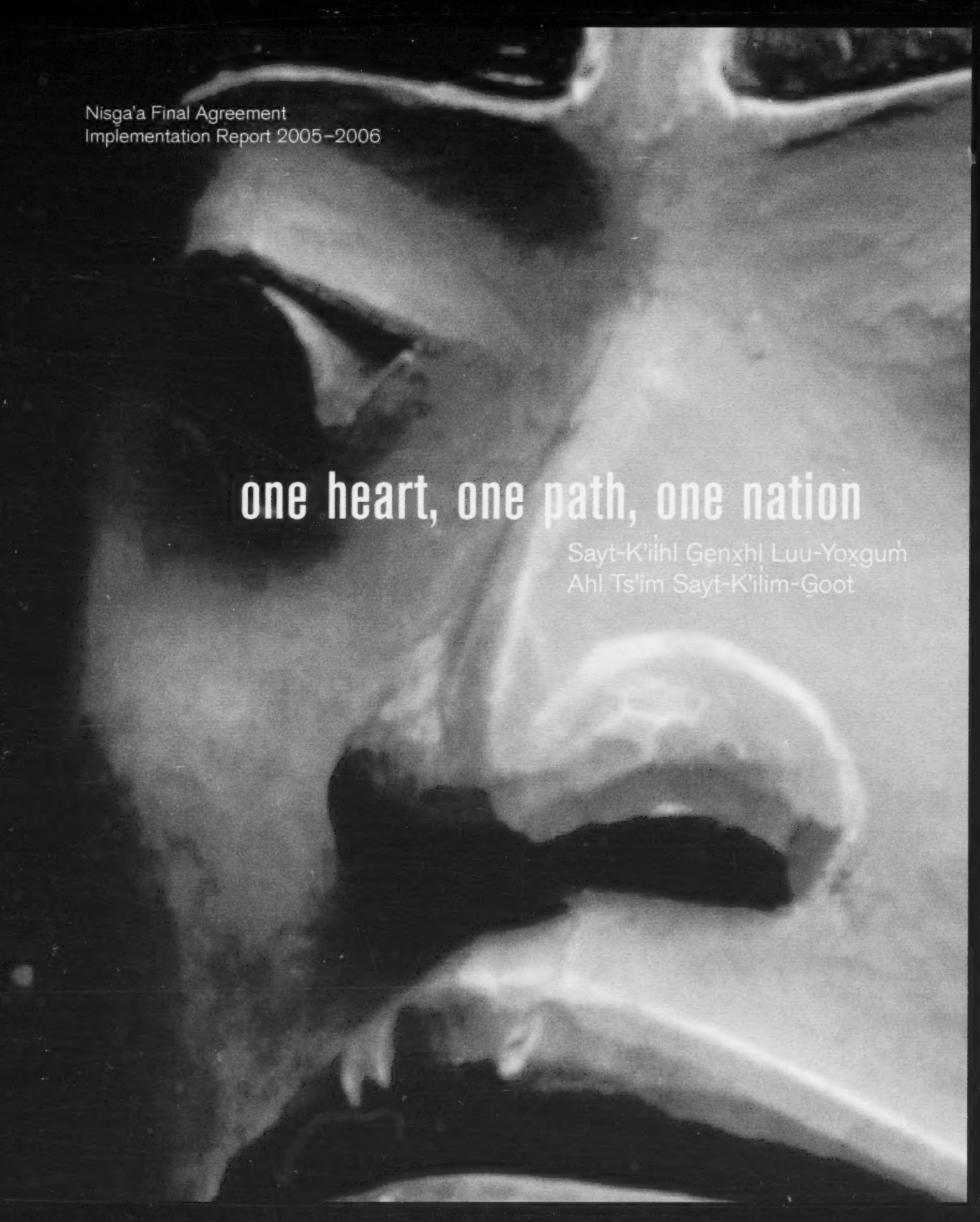
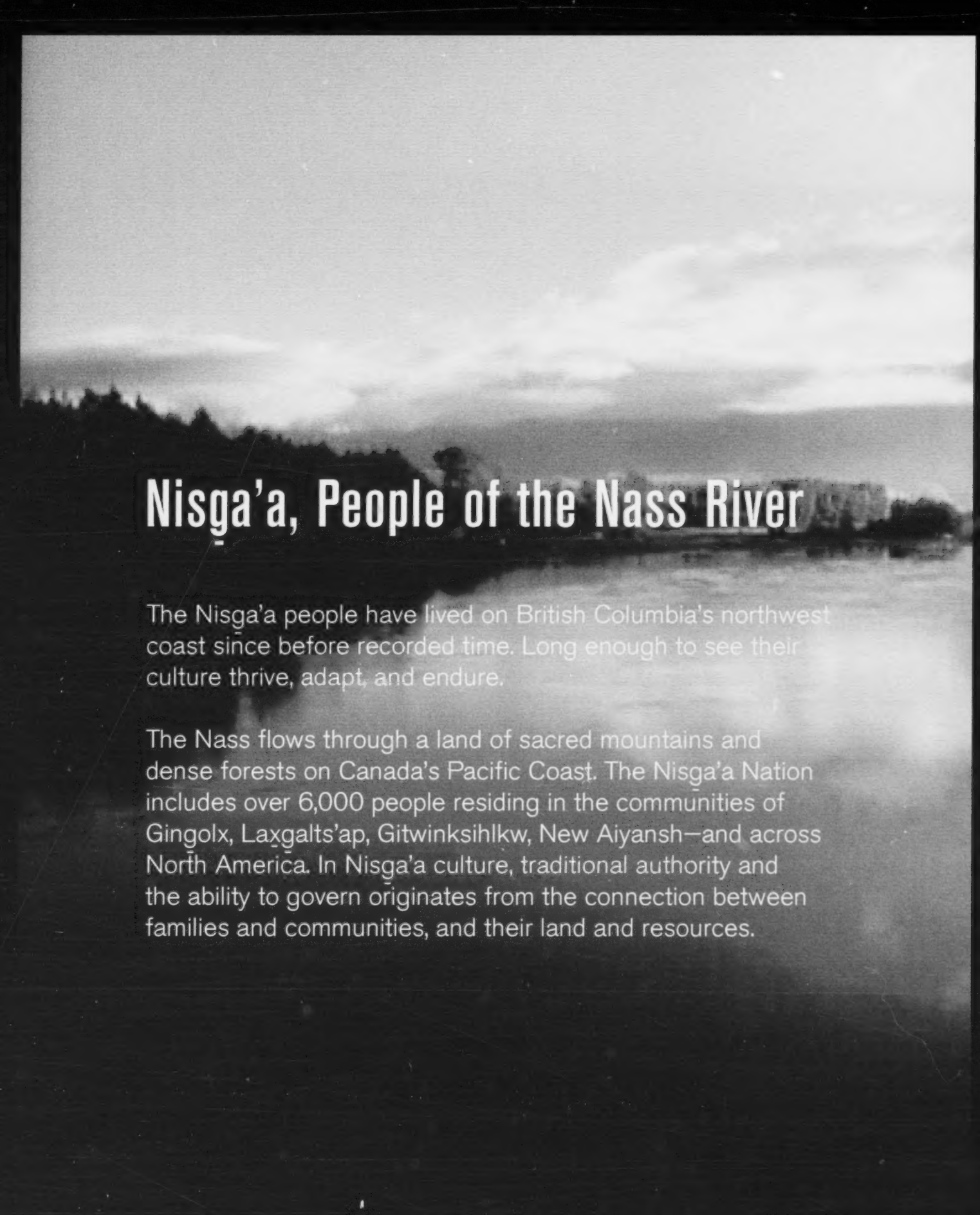
Nisga'a Final Agreement
Implementation Report 2005–2006



one heart, one path, one nation

Sayt-K'ilhl Ganxhl Luu-Yoxgum'
Ahl Ts'im Sayt-K'ilim-Goot



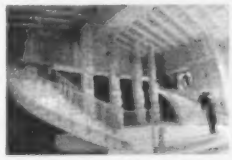
Nisga'a, People of the Nass River

The Nisga'a people have lived on British Columbia's northwest coast since before recorded time. Long enough to see their culture thrive, adapt, and endure.

The Nass flows through a land of sacred mountains and dense forests on Canada's Pacific Coast. The Nisga'a Nation includes over 6,000 people residing in the communities of Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw, New Aiyansh—and across North America. In Nisga'a culture, traditional authority and the ability to govern originates from the connection between families and communities, and their land and resources.

Our Treaty

May 11, 2000, the Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, marked the end of a 113-year journey—and the first steps in a new direction. On that day, the *Indian Act* ceased to apply to the Nisga'a people (except for the purpose of Indian registration) and, for the first time in modern history, the Nisga'a people had the legal authority to conduct their own affairs. The treaty recognizes Nisga'a Lands (2,000 sq. km) and opened the door for joint economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's natural resources. An example of hope, trust, and cooperation, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is being studied by governments and Aboriginal peoples the world over.



Our Government

The Nisga'a Final Agreement provides certainty with respect to the Nisga'a people's right of self-determination and includes self-government provisions. The Nisga'a Nation is represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG)—a modern, forward-thinking administration based on traditional culture and values. Nisga'a government has the ability to pass laws on a broad range of matters. At the same time, Nisga'a lawmaking authority is concurrent with federal or provincial authority.

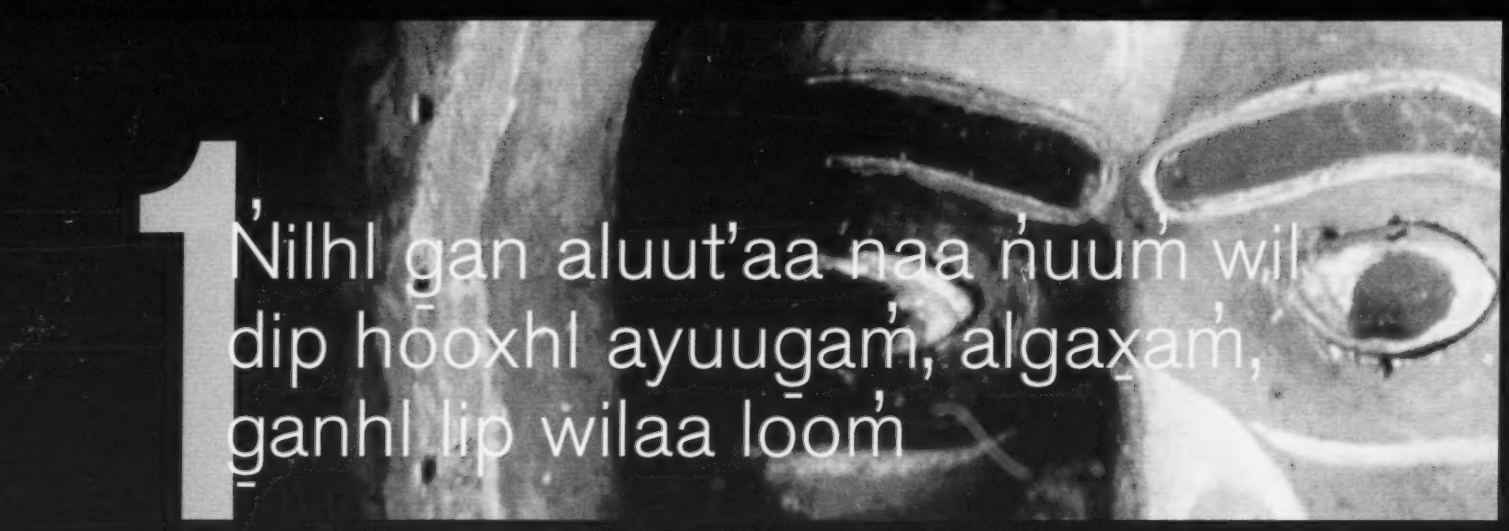
Proud British Columbians and Canadians, Nisga'a citizens are responsible for building and maintaining their own institutions. Designed to assure democracy, transparency, and accountability, Nisga'a government is comprised of NLG and the four Nisga'a Village Governments. NLG's President, Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chairperson of the Council of Elders are elected at-large by Nisga'a citizens. Village government members are directly elected. Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a, the government's legislative assembly, enacts laws within its jurisdiction.

Our Vision

During the reporting period, Nisga'a Lisims Government developed and adopted a vision statement—Sayt-K'ilim-Goot: one heart, one path, one nation—which serves as a compass, providing clarity and direction. NLG is committed to ensuring its programs, services, and day-to-day operations reflect this vision.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Goot, the Nisga'a Nation is a place where:

> our Ayuuk, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity
> learning is a way of life
> we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance
> we inspire trust and understanding through effective communication, and
> our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.



1 Nilhl g̱an aluut'aa naa ńuum̓ wil dip hoo̱xhl ayuug̱am̓, algax̱am̓, g̱anhl lip wilaa loom̓

>>> our Ayuu̱k̲, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity

Nisg̱a'a Culture & Heritage

Nisg̱a'a culture is rich and enduring. Based on the Ayuu̱k̲ (the laws and customs of the Nisg̱a'a people) it fosters respect for the natural world and the wisdom of the elders. Today, Nisg̱a'a art, dancing, and singing are all resurgent, and the preservation of Nisg̱a'a language is a top priority. Cultural integrity supports unity—one of the reasons for Nisg̱a'a success in treaty-making and the implementation of self-government.

Ayuu̱k̲hl Nisg̱a'a Department

Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government created the Ayuu̱k̲hl Nisg̱a'a Department (AND) to protect, preserve, and promote Nisg̱a'a language, culture, and history. The department works to ensure Nisg̱a'a people are politically, economically, socially, and spiritually healthy, and empowered by a thorough understanding of Nisg̱a'a culture. AND supports the cultural integrity of government programs and services by preserving the past and ensuring that Nisg̱a'a knowledge and traditions inform government practices. This is achieved through:

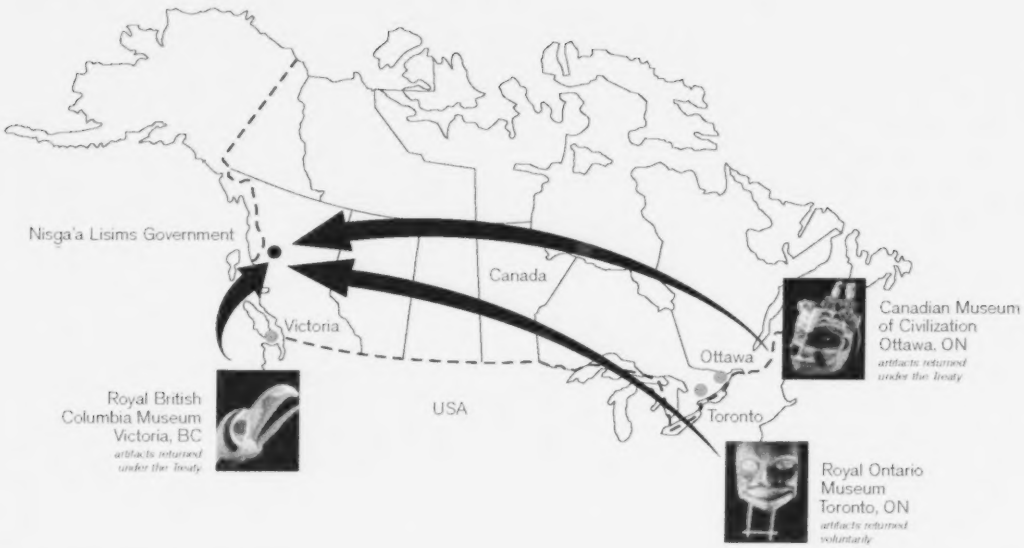
- development and maintenance of a catalogue system for Nisg̱a'a archives
- resource and administrative support for the Council of Elders and various government committees
- liaison and negotiations with the Royal British Columbia Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, and Smithsonian Institute, and
- research and production of books on key aspects of Nisg̱a'a culture.

During the reporting period, significant progress was made toward the completion of the Yukw Document, which represents the very essence of the Ayuu̱k̲hl Nisg̱a'a. A cornerstone of the Nisg̱a'a Nation, the Yukw Document is a gift to future generations.

AND Projects

- Territorial Binders (archival and historical information, oral histories)
- Nisg̱a'a Traditional Name Repository
- Cataloguing AND Collection
- Exhibit designs
- Council of Elders Resource
- Academic research requests
- Editing Nisg̱a'a materials

Bringing Our Ancestors Home



Nisga'a Museum & Cultural Centre

Together with the Nisga'a Foundation (a registered charitable society), NLG is in the design and planning stages of the creation of a Nisga'a Museum & Cultural Centre. When complete, the facility will house nearly 300 Nisga'a artifacts and be a permanent place for Nisga'a people and visitors to experience the rich life and legacy of Nisga'a culture. This state-of-the-art facility will include archival software systems, listening booths, computerized office space, a library and teaching centre, and a gift shop to showcase Nisga'a art and artists.

Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park)

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park—the first provincial park to be jointly managed by a First Nation and British Columbia—offers interpretation of spectacular natural features and a dramatic introduction to Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. Guided hikes lead park visitors through a scenic old growth forest and past a variety of lava formations to a viewpoint overlooking the crater. A 16-site vehicle campground, picnic areas, visitor information centre, boat launches, and short hikes offer visitors a wide variety of activities and a chance to learn more about Nisga'a history. British Columbia funds an annual agreement for park services and maintenance ($45,000).

Summary

> Yukw Document nears completion.
> Planning underway for the Nisga'a Museum & Cultural Centre.
> Visitors from around the world visit Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park.

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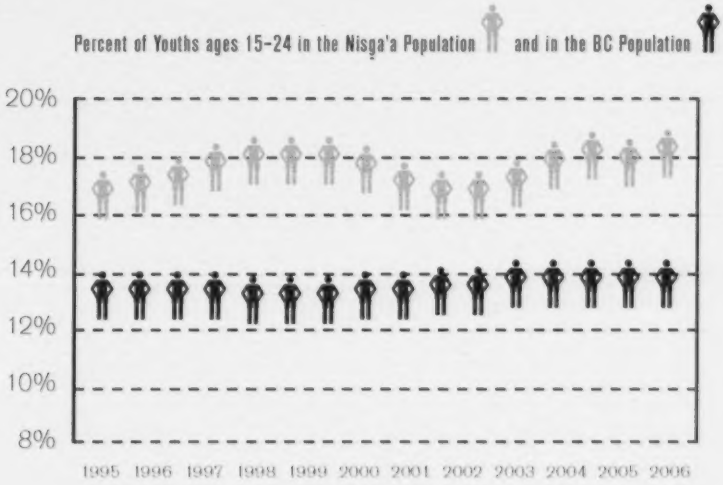
>>> learning is a way of life

Primary & Secondary Education

The Nisg̱a'a Nation is committed to improving its education system, helping adult learners gain more training, and encouraging all Nisg̱a'a to engage in lifelong learning to help build the economy and strengthen Nisg̱a'a society. On Nisg̱a'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisg̱a'a), part of British Columbia's publicly-funded school system. The school board consists of four Nisg̱a'a members (representing each Nisg̱a'a village) and one non-Nisg̱a'a member. Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government works in partnership with the district to foster and protect Nisg̱a'a language and culture while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley youth.

Compared to the provincial average, Nisg̱a'a youth represent a higher proportion of the population in their communities. NLG continues to plan for the current and future educational needs of Nisg̱a'a youth so that they will be fully prepared to participate in the economy.



Post-Secondary Education

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a House of Wisdom) Institute offers Nisga'a-based post-secondary programs in Nisga'a communities and select urban centres. Serving both Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a students since 1993, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (WWN) partners with a number of public institutions for the delivery of programs.

Through a federation agreement with the University of Northern British Columbia, WWN offers:	Through an affiliation agreement with Northwest Community College, WWN offers:
■ Bachelor of Arts, First Nations Studies-Nisga'a ■ Northern Advancement Program (university preparation), and ■ Education Diploma in Nisga'a Language and Culture.	■ vocational & technical training ■ Grade 12 Achievement ■ university/college preparation ■ Carpentry/Timber Framing, and ■ continuing education programs.

In addition, NLG funds Nisga'a students pursuing post-secondary education throughout British Columbia and North America.

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation

WWN is working to establish the Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation (a registered charitable society) in order to build a secure, independent funding base for capital projects, student scholarships and bursaries, faculty and staff development, and other priorities.

Nisga'a people have supported WWN from its inception. In a demonstration of that community support, Nisga'a Economic Enterprises initially contributed $100,000, and later made a $250,000 donation to the Nisga'a Endowment Fund. This sum was generously matched by British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia. Since 1994, the endowment has grown to more than $1 million. This growth is largely due to the generosity of donors who recognize WWN's need for flexibility and increased financial independence. These funds will become part of the new Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation.

Summary

> Work to establish Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation underway.

3 sgihl gamo'akala'amskw loom, ...
gan wil dip dixyugwihl ha'am wil ...

>>> we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance

Unemployment Rate on Nisga'a Lands

1997	2000
74.56	68.83
2003	**2006**
52.11*	60.53

*Since the Nisga'a Final Agreement in 2000, unemployment rates on Nisga'a Lands have fallen. In 2003, rates were especially low due to road building in the Nass Valley.

Nisga'a Economy

The Nisga'a economy is a fully-integrated part of the economy of northwest British Columbia—with all the opportunities and challenges that implies. The primary industries in the Nass Valley are fishing and forestry. Seasonal resource industries are complemented by full-time employment in the government, education, and healthcare sectors.

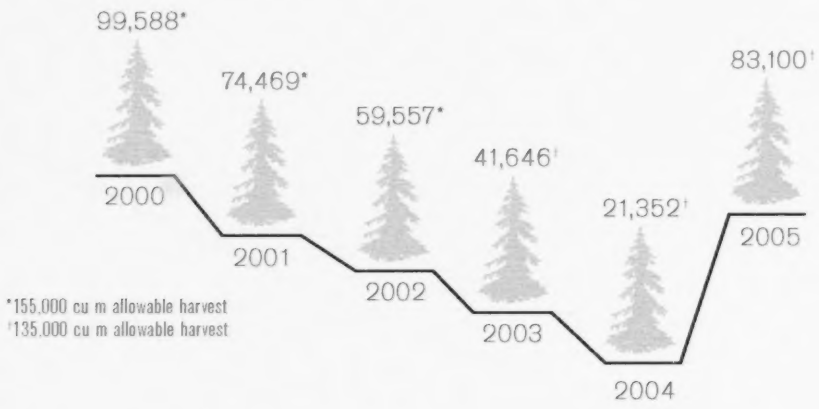
Since May 11, 2000, infrastructure improvements have brought new jobs and skills to the Nass Valley while tourism and telecommunication offer the promise of expanding and diversified employment opportunities. From small, local business initiatives to international partnerships, Nisga'a Lisims Government actively supports and facilitates new initiatives to improve employment opportunities in the Nass Valley.

Forest Resources Department

NLG manages Nisga'a forests to protect this natural inheritance and to provide employment for Nisga'a people. Ecological sustainability is a prime consideration in the development and approval of all operations within Nisga'a Lands and the *Nisga'a Forest Act* sets high standards to maintain biodiversity. NLG also manages all land and forest resources on Nisga'a Lands, including non-timber resources. Pine mushrooms, a popular delicacy in Asia, are the second most valuable resource found in Nisga'a forests and are harvested seasonally. During the reporting period, NLG entered into a joint venture with Alcan Forest Products for harvesting timber on Nisga'a Lands.

During the reporting period, following a licensee bankruptcy, British Columbia assumed responsibility for managing the outstanding obligations associated with Tree Farm Licence (TFL) #1 and Forest Licence (FL) A64298 on Nisga'a Lands. A full-time project manager was assigned and a draft work plan was prepared. In consultation with NLG and Lisims Forest Resources LLP, British Columbia undertook road repairs, a road safety inventory, and surveys of 22 high priority cut-blocks.

Cubic Metres of Timber Harvested Per Year Since 2000



Mushrooms Harvested Since 2000

2000	13,620 kg	$0.4 million
2001	27,216 kg	$1.3 million
2002	23,000 kg	$1.0 million
2003	45,360 kg	$1.0 million
2004	12,000 kg	$0.15 million
2005	8,210 kg	$0.18 million

kg = Kilograms harvested $ = Revenue to the local economy

Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program

One of the healthiest and most abundant river systems in the world, K'alii Aksim Lisims (the Nass) is the spawning grounds of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and oolichan. NLG and Canada manage the Nass River fishery to preserve the resource, provide for Nisga'a people, and to support a modern, sustainable fishing industry. Facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and NLG) the Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program utilizes fish wheels on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessment on a variety of species throughout the Nass Area.

During the 2005 season, 352 Individual Sales permits were sold to Nisga'a citizens and 63 were issued to individuals over 60 years of age, free of charge. There were 10 sockeye openings (four marine, six river) and three coho openings (one marine, two river). This is a reduction of six openings from the previous year, which was directly related to lower total returns to Canada in 2005.

It was reported that non-Nisga'a fishers were operating in the open water and in Hecate Strait during the reporting period, scooping oolichan and then dumping them back into the sea. An estimated 100 tons of the fish were killed in this wasteful manner. Correspondingly, the oolichan harvest in the Nass Valley was down dramatically. While a normal harvest is in the 200 ton range, only 14 tons were caught by Nisga'a fishers during the reporting period (a 93% reduction). Nisga'a Fisheries liaised with Department of Fisheries and Oceans to rectify this matter.

Salmon Harvested Since 2000

	Species	Individual Fish Caught	Revenue to Local Economy
2000	Sockeye*	54,734	$900,000
2001	Sockeye*	37,833	$386,126
2002	Sockeye	87,918	$833,781
	Coho	2,425	
2003	Sockeye	85,284	$984,708
	Coho	10,317	
2004	Sockeye	91,426	$1,141,930
	Coho	10,294	
2005	Sockeye	112,778	$665,556
	Coho	14,762	

*In 2000 and 2001, only sockeye were harvested

Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust

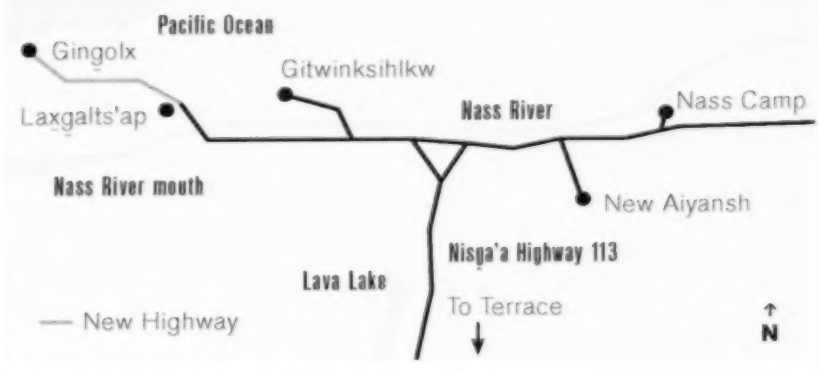
The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program applies the highest standards in the areas of conservation and environmental protection to ensure a healthy, productive aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is ensured, in part, by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the Lisims Trust and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Committee are taken into account in sponsoring projects, programs, and activities that are in keeping with the Trust's objectives. Lisims Trust promotes conservation and protection of Nass Area fish species, facilitates sustainable management, and supports Nisga'a participation in fisheries stewardship for the benefit of all Canadians.

Wildlife Management

Together with its treaty partners, the Nisga'a Nation provides advice about wildlife management and harvesting within the 16,101 sq. km Nass Wildlife Area. British Columbia uses this information to establish wildlife allocations and approve the annual Nass Wildlife Management plan. For conservation reasons, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear have been identified as "designated species" and a permit system and hunting allocation has been instituted. A moose population survey, funded by British Columbia, was conducted in winter, 2006.

Infrastructure

Since 2000, British Columbia has invested $52 million to upgrade and pave the Nisga'a Highway from Lava Lake to New Aiyansh, Nass Camp, and Laxgalts'ap—connecting the Nisga'a Nation to North America's road network. In addition, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation together invested $34 million to construct a new 29-kilometre gravel highway from Laxgalts'ap to the village of Gingolx.



This map is not to scale and is for general information purposes only.

These investments in transportation infrastructure are improving the lives of Nisga'a people, bringing new visitors, and increasing access for the shipment of Nisga'a fish, seafood, and forest products. During the reporting period, NLG concluded negotiations with British Columbia to have the highway formally designated as Nisga'a Highway 113, which recognizes the number of years it took to conclude the treaty.

Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies

NLG has created Nisga'a corporations to fulfill specific needs, such as marketing fish (Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.), managing forest resources (Lisims Forest Resources LLP), and building a telecommunications infrastructure (enTel Communications Inc.). To ensure the separation between government and business interests, during the reporting period NLG established an independent board and hired a CEO. Professional management was also hired and, in the short-term, an independent board of directors will be appointed from the business community—bringing a mixture of skills, education, and backgrounds. Before this reorganization, NLG corporations accumulated losses in excess of $3.5 million and turnover was high. To remediate the situation, the following terms have been enacted:

- all jobs must have an economic justification (no make-work projects)
- spending will be permitted only to enhance the bottom line, and
- to ensure sustainability, Nisga'a corporations will live within their means.

Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd.

A wholly-owned NLG corporation, Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd. pays Nisga'a fishers for their harvest and markets the fish. Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd. operates three landing sites on the Nass River and is responsible for grading, counting, and weighing salmon for payment, as well as distribution of flaked ice to eligible Nisga'a fishers. Nisga'a Fisheries also oversees the transportation of all salmon to a central depot located at the Nisga'a Fresh Fish Plant at New Aiyansh. To increase profitability, during the reporting period, Nisga'a Fisheries Ltd. reduced staff levels and paid lower prices for fish while pursuing higher prices for end customers.

Lisims Forest Resources LLP

Lisims Forest Resources LLP manages the marketing and sale of Nisga'a forest resources. Wholly-owned by NLG, Lisims Forest Resources LLP is working to expand and diversify the market for Nisga'a wood. In addition to domestic clients, Lisims Forest Resources LLP sells Nisga'a wood to China, Japan, and Korea, and is actively seeking partners to develop value-added wood products for domestic and international customers. Lisims Forest Resources LLP is also seeking partners to expand the harvest of over a dozen other marketable botanical forest products, including lobster mushrooms, King boletus mushrooms, fiddleheads, and wild medicinal herbs. During the reporting period, Lisims Forest Resources LLP negotiated the best prices for Nisga'a timber and mushrooms while keeping costs under control.

enTel Communications Inc.

After the Effective Date of the treaty, NLG sought to bring high-speed Internet access to the Nass Valley to support economic and social development of the Nisga'a Nation. To meet this challenge, NLG created enTel Communications Inc., which is now bringing broadband Internet access to the Nass Valley and beyond. During the reporting period, enTel communications focused on two critical areas—customer services and the completion of the fibre optic infrastructure.

Hydroelectric Projects

Since 2004, NLG has been investigating the feasibility of small "run of river" hydro-electric projects on Nisga'a Lands. Since then, NLG staff has assisted in completing stream data collection. During the reporting period, Canada committed to covering 80% of the costs of feasibility studies to the end of fiscal 2006, and Northwest Hydraulic Consultants were contracted to complete Phase 1 of feasibility studies on Anudol River, Kwinatahl River, and Ksi Sgasginist. The final report is expected in 2007.

Fiscal Financing Agreement

During the reporting period, the parties negotiated to reach agreement on a second Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA). The four Nisga'a villages, three Nisga'a Urban Societies, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a, Nisga'a Valley Health Board, School District 92 (Nisga'a), and NLG all participated by developing and presenting their FFA budget proposals to Canada and British Columbia. Canada and British Columbia's reviews of the Nisga'a budget proposals and the negotiation of a new FFA will continue into the next reporting period.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust

Under the treaty, the Capital Transfer to the Nisga'a Nation is paid over 14 years. During the reporting period, NLG executive retained an independent consultant to assist in the development of the risk budgeting framework for these funds, known as the Nisga'a Settlement Trust. During the reporting period, NLG Finance Committee recommended adoption of the NLG Risk Budgeting Analysis Report as its trust investment strategy. The trust consists of approximately $55 million. Projections from the portfolio manager estimate that the trust will produce revenues of $7 million per year for the next 25 years. Accordingly, detailed planning for use of these revenues is now a priority.

Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission

During the reporting period, Canada provided the Nisga'a Nation with funding to enable the replacement and major maintenance of agreed-upon capital assets. The commission functions under the jurisdiction of the *Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission Act*. The owners of the capital assets are the four Nisga'a villages and the Nisga'a Nation.

Summary

- > Independent corporate governance established.
- > Joint venture announced with Alcan Forest Products.
- > Mushroom harvest revenue up 20% from 2004.
- > Salmon harvest revenue down 42% from 2004.
- > Hydroelectric feasibility studies continued.
- > Negotiations underway for a second Fiscal Financing Agreement.
- > Settlement Trust Risk Budget Analysis completed.
- > Canada provides capital asset maintenance funding.

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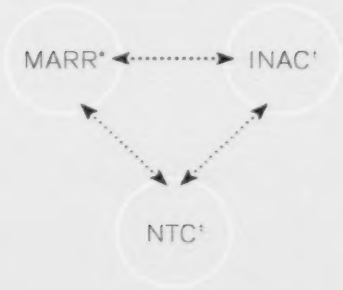
> > > we inspire trust and understanding through effective communication

Pre-Treaty Communication



Post-Treaty Government-to-Government Communication

*Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
†Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
‡Nisga'a Tribal Council
§Nisga'a Lisims Government

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Democracy depends on an informed citizenry. Access to a range of information enables citizens to participate in public life, determine priorities for public spending, receive equal access to justice, and hold elected officials to account. The Nisga'a Nation achieved its treaty with effective communication, transparency, and accountability. Nisga'a Lisims Government is implementing the treaty in the same spirit.

In order to help enhance and expand the channels of communication, during the reporting period NLG established a Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate in order to improve the way government members communicate with each other, Nisga'a citizens, and the wider world.

Internal Communication

Since May 11, 2000, a positive transformation has taken place in the relationship between NLG and its treaty partners. One of the great successes of the treaty, this is due in large part to the new government-to-government level communication. Within the Nisga'a Nation, however, there has been an increasing awareness of the need to improve communication between NLG, the villages, Urban Societies, and the outside world.

During the reporting period, it became apparent that NLG must work harder to inform Nisga'a citizens of Nisga'a government activities, including economic and program development. Rather than signaling the end of a process, concluding the treaty has created the opportunity for new beginnings. Immediate steps to improve communication included:

- establishment of the Communication & Intergovernmental Affairs directorate
- preparation of a comprehensive communication strategy
- production of a Nisga'a Lisims Government information kit
- the beginning of a complete overhaul of the NLG web site, and
- continuation of *Hak'ak'a'a*, NLG's monthly newsletter.

Nisga'a Nation Special Assembly

A showcase of open communication, the third Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation was held May 1-5, 2006, in Gitwinksihlkw. The assembly attracted over 650 participants and, through a web cast by enTel, the entire assembly was made available to all interested parties—recording 6,450 website hits and 274 posted questions. Special guests attending the assembly included visitors from as far away as the People's Republic of China and Taiwan.

Emergency Planning

At no time is communication more critical than in the event of an emergency. That's why NLG approved and adopted an Emergency Response and Recovery Plan during the reporting period. The Nisga'a Emergency Planning Committee—which consists of representatives from NLG, Nisga'a Village Governments, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, and Lisims Nass Valley RCMP Detachment—is working to implement the plan and build capacity in the area of emergency response.

Summary

> Communication among treaty partners improved.
> Insufficient communication within the Nisga'a Nation identified.
> New Directorate of Communication & Intergovernmental Relations established.
> Third Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation a success.
> Emergency planning continued.

5 dimt hugaxam diyeem' t an de'entgum

> > > our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs

Nisga'a Programs & Services

Guided by Nisga'a culture, and best practices from around the world, Nisga'a Lisims Government works to improve the lives of Nisga'a people. In partnership with the four Nisga'a village governments, NLG delivers a wide range of culturally-appropriate programs and services in the areas of health, education, social development, local services, and access to justice. Transforming or adapting programs to fit Nisga'a culture produces better results for Nisga'a people.

Nisga'a Valley Health Authority

Nisga'a government manages the delivery of healthcare in Nisga'a communities through the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA). Registered under the *Societies Act*, the elected body includes representatives of the four Nisga'a villages and an elected representative from the non-Nisga'a community. Responsible for creating and maintaining facilities and promoting medical and public healthcare programs, NVHA operates a diagnostic centre at New Aiyansh and satellite clinics in the other villages providing physician services, home care, cultural community health representatives, and the administration of Non-Insured Health Benefits. NVHA delivers one of the most progressive, efficient, and effective First Nations healthcare organizations in Canada.

Nisga'a Child & Family Services

At less than 1%, the percentage of children in government care in the Nass Valley is lower than both the provincial and national averages. With funding from both Canada and British Columbia, NLG provides service options to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and policies. By maintaining the Nisga'a family through the utilization of the Ayuuk, Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) works to ensure the well-being of all Nisga'a children.

NCFS provides support services for families, which promote sound parenting practices and respite care. Voluntary Care Agreements allow parents to place their children in a safe, approved home during medical treatment or training. Special Needs Agreements ensure the safe care of children with special needs. NCFS approves and provides ongoing support payments to adults who provide foster care for Nisga'a children in

Nisga'a Family Care Homes. NCFS also provides resources for the following programs:

- Family Support Services
- Youth Worker Program
- Community Workshops
- Speech Therapy
- Drug Awareness Resistance Education
- Psychologist Services
- Family Support Services, and a
- Recreation Program.

In the near-term, a comprehensive review of social development programs will be initiated.

Social Development Services

NLG is committed to supporting healthy and economically prosperous Nisga'a communities where children, youth, and adults have hope and opportunities, and access to social programs that support a healthy living standard. This is accomplished by developing individual and family strengths, and by providing access to services that will enhance their self-sufficiency. The following programs are delivered by individual village social development departments:

- Basic Needs
- Special Needs
- Guardian Financial Assistance
- Adult In-Home Care
- National Child Benefit Reinvestment
- Training Employment Support Initiatives
- Family Violence Prevention, and
- Community Support Services.

Access to Justice

NLG's Access to Justice Department supports the prevention and resolution of conflicts through increasing awareness of the Ayuuḵ and Canadian laws, legal processes, and traditions through the following programs: Aboriginal Justice, Yuuhlimḵ'askw Program, and Lisims Nass Valley RCMP Victims Services Program.

During the reporting period, NLG's new Restorative Justice Program became fully operational in the community of Gingolx. In its first year, 28 Nisga'a citizens who came into conflict with the law were enrolled in the program, which offers meaningful accountability and assistance in returning Nisga'a citizens to the community.

Timeline

Milestones in the transfer of government functions and responsibilities from Canada and British Columbia to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

1989
Nisga'a people begin managing their own healthcare system

1992
Nisga'a Fisheries established to manage the resource in partnership with Canada

1993
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a House of Wisdom) established

1994
BC delegates authority to the Nisga'a Nation for Child and Family Services

2000
Nisga'a Lisims Government established

2005
Nisga'a Nation regains full control of its forest resources

In-House Legal Counsel

During the reporting period, NLG retained in-house legal counsel to ensure Nisga'a government directorates have access to informed and cost-effective legal services. NLG's legal counsel also serves as Law Clerk to Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a and Nisga'a Lisims Government Executive to ensure adherence to statutory requirements within Nisga'a law.

Youth in Government

NLG is committed to improving access for Nisga'a youth to programs and services by involving them in the social and economic decision-making of government. This is accomplished through the Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC). Each Nisga'a Village and Urban Society has its own Nisga'a Youth Council, which sends a representative to the seven-member Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council.

During the reporting period, NLG—in partnership with Rural Voices and the Federal Rural Secretariat—launched a three year project for youth known as the Integrated Hub Model. This program is being used as a prototype for Canada's Models for Rural Development and Community Capacity Building Research Initiative. Objectives include:

- supporting leadership and capacity building
- identifying barriers in community service integration, and
- informing government policy development, program development, and service sector training opportunities.

Other NYAC initiatives undertaken during the reporting period include:

- Nisga'a Youth Councils & Career Fairs
- Fashion Shows
- Nisga'a Dictionary Studies
- Mental Health Grooming & Wellness Workshop
- Celebration of British Columbia Youth Week, and
- Nisga'a Youth Council National Conference.

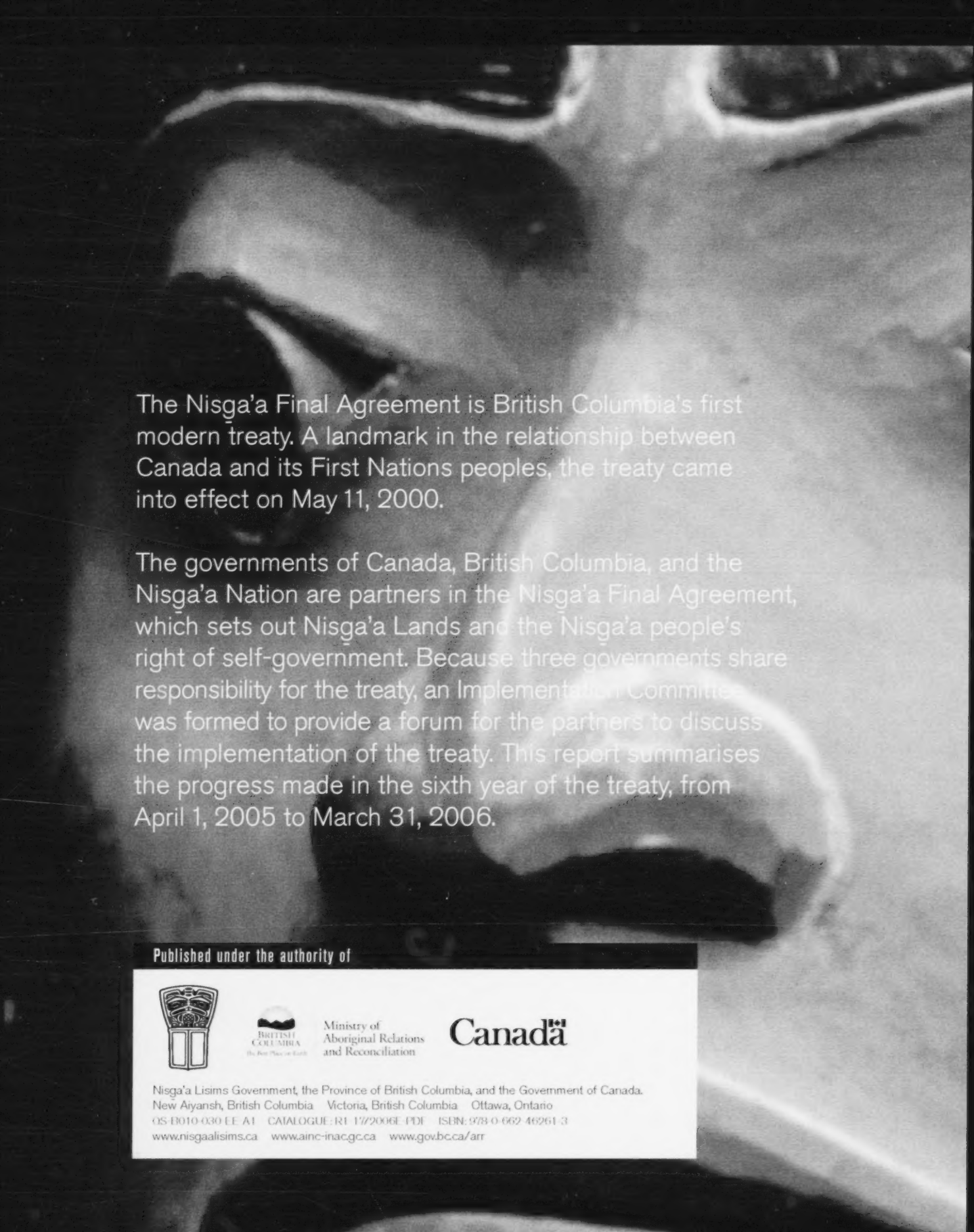
Summary

> Percentage of children in government care in the Nass Valley is lower than both the provincial and national averages (less than 1%).
> 28 Nisga'a citizens took part in the new Restorative Justice Program at Gingolx.
> In-house legal counsel retained.
> Youth project (Integrated Hub Model) launched.

Area of Detail

Roads and Highways	Nass Area (includes Nass Wildlife Area)	Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park (Anhluut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl Nisga'a)
Nisga'a Highway	Nass Wildlife Area (includes Nisga'a Lands)	Gingietl Creek Ecological Reserve No. 115
Nisga'a Highway Kincolith Extension Project	Nisga'a Lands	Waterways

This map is not to scale and is for general information purposes only. Within the area of detail there are private lands owned by the Nisga'a Nation and others (not shown).



The Nisga'a Final Agreement is British Columbia's first modern treaty. A landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples, the treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000.

The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation are partners in the Nisga'a Final Agreement, which sets out Nisga'a Lands and the Nisga'a people's right of self-government. Because three governments share responsibility for the treaty, an Implementation Committee was formed to provide a forum for the partners to discuss the implementation of the treaty. This report summarises the progress made in the sixth year of the treaty, from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

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